

Minutes From a Meeting of the Concordia Council on
Student Life

Held on October 26, 2001
AD 121 10:00am Loyola Campus

PRESENT: Dr. D. Boisvert, Chair, Ms J. Hackett, Secretary, Mr. R. Al-Hadad, Mr. P. Blais, Ms C. Costello, Mr. R. Côté, Ms M. Drew, Me P. Frégeau, Mr. A. Gagnon, Dr. S.M. Graub, Mr. B. Hamideh, Mr. A. Igdebeli, Dr. J. Jans, Mr. R. Luppicini, Ms O. Maibroda, Ms G. Pagé, Mr. H. Zarins, Mr. W. Curran, Ms L. Lipscombe, Ms L. Toscano

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Mr. M. Nimchuk, Dr. S. Shaver, Ms C. Boujaklian, Ms C. Hedrich, Ms N. Ngoya

ABSENT: Ms J. De Cubellis, Mr. J. Brisebois, Ms B. Stewart

GUESTS: Ms A. Ghadban, Mr. M. Golden

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Boisvert asked for an update on the Notice of Motions circulated by Mr. Blais at the September CCSL meeting. Mr. Blais asked, that as the draft Poster Policy is under revision, Motion #1 (Poster Policy) be tabled to the next meeting of CCSL. He requested that Motion #2 (Composition of CCSL) be withdrawn. He asked that Motions #3 (Recognition of Student Participation in University Governance) and #4 (Status of T. Keefer & L. Marouf) be kept on the agenda for discussion under 4.2.

A motion to approve the revised agenda was carried unanimously.

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Dr. Boisvert took the opportunity to introduce Mr. Michael Golden, the new Student Affairs Coordinator in the Dean of Students' Office, who replaced Mr. A. Mohammadi. He added that Mr. Golden, a recent Fine Arts graduate, was one of the organizers of the Art Matters Festival which recently won the Forces Avenir award for excellence in the category of student art, culture and communication. On behalf of CCSL, he extended

congratulations to Mr. Golden and the organizers of the Art Matters Festival.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2001

A motion to approve the minutes was carried unanimously

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Capital Campaign Fee refund statistics (R. Côté)

Mr. Cote distributed a document detailing the reimbursements for the Capital Campaign Fee and the Administrative Fee Bursary for 2000-01 and 2001-02. He pointed out that there was a significant increase in requests for reimbursements in comparison with last year. He noted that although the deadline to apply for an exemption had been extended, 90% of the requests had been received before the deadline extension. He also noted that the percentage of students not approved for an exemption was extremely low. Mr. Blais felt it was important that all students were aware of the process for reimbursement of these fees. He felt that publicity and outreach programs should be put in place to ensure this.

4.2 Notice of Motions (P. Blais)

Motion #3 – Recognition of Student Participation in University Governance

Mr. Blais asked that the sentence “*-Notation on their transcript at the time of graduation of the committees and the year for which they have been sitting on such committees*” be deleted.

Mr. Blais said he was not in favour of the system of awarding bursaries based on an application procedure. He felt this fostered a sense of competitiveness and would be a deterrent to creating a feeling of “team work and spirit”. He felt that issuing a tuition waiver to those students who met the criteria would be far more beneficial and fair.

Dr. Jans asked for an update on the status of the Report on Recognition of Student Participation in University Governance. Dr. Boisvert said that the Report and excerpts from previous minutes concerning this issue had been distributed to Council. He explained that the report as approved by CCSL had been forwarded to the Rector’s Office. To date, there has been no response from the Rector’s Office concerning implementation of the recommendations. He reminded Council that he had offered to provide

funding from Student Services for the bursaries on a trial basis for one year only. Council had not made any decision in this regard.

With the respect to the implementation of tuition waivers, the following concerns were expressed:

- That the tuition waiver system be in place for 2002-2003 only,
- Ensure that there is leeway to add councils/committees to the list of bodies currently indicated in the Motion (Bog, Senate, CCSL, Faculty Councils),
- Ensure the student appointments to the committees are done in an equitable way,
- As tuition can vary depending on programme, status (eg international students, privatized programmes), fix a cap on the amount of the tuition waiver,
- Ensure common terms of reference with respect to the word usage (eg some graduate students are charged by the term, not by credit),
- Ensure that undergraduate and graduate differences are clearly defined,
- Clarify “valid excuse” reference. The Student Request Committee has guidelines which may be useful.

Dr. Jans questioned whether Council could approve a motion which contradicts recommendations in the CCSL approved Report which was submitted to the Rector. Concern was also expressed that Council did not wish to “muddy the waters” by having too many documents in the mix. Dr. Boisvert appreciated the reservations expressed. He also understood that the spirit of the motion was to try and move things along as quickly as possible. A lengthy discussion followed on the different ways the original report could be amended in light of the proposed motion.

The following motion was made by Mr. Blais and seconded by Ms Pagé:

BIR that CCSL approve in principle Motion #3 (Recognition of Student Participation in University Governance), with the understanding that a more detailed document will be presented for further refinement and ratification at CCSL

BIFR that this document will be prepared by Mr. Golden, Student Affairs Coordinator, in conjunction with the pertinent departments and will take into consideration the concerns expressed at the October 26 meeting of CCSL.

The motion was carried: Yes 14 No 0 Abstentions 1

Motion #4 (Status of T. Keefer & L. Marouf)

Mr. Blais requested that the sentence - "*Be it resolved that CCSL supports freedom of expression*" be deleted.

Mr. Blais explained that the case concerning the reinstatement of Mr. Keefer and Mr. Marouf is now before the Superior Court of Quebec. After having attended the recent court session, he felt strongly that it is at the point of being ridiculous. He admitted feeling a sense of shame at the amount of money wasted on court costs. Money, he reiterated, which could be better-spent enhancing student life or projects at Concordia. He felt strongly that the university's decision to bar Mr. Keefer and Mr. Marouf was done on a reactionary basis. He asked that CCSL take a leadership role in this situation. Ms Pagé agreed adding that the motion did not ask CCSL to decide on the guilt or innocence of these two individuals. Rather, the motion asked that CCSL support the request for due process.

Mr. Gagnon felt that the internal system for "due process" had been abused by one of the two individuals in the past and questioned his intentions. Mr. Blais said the problems with the Office of Rights and Responsibilities had been resolved. He now felt this office was the appropriate place to have a hearing. As the issue seemed confusing and conflicting at times for Council, Dr. Boisvert explained that the university's position and the CSU's position were not the same with respect to the status of Mr. Marouf and Mr. Keefer.

Me Frégeau explained that the question presently before the court is a preliminary procedural motion to ask the court to render a decision on the appropriateness of the students' case. His/Her Lordship will, in due course, state whether the court is the appropriate forum for this debate. Mr. Côté said as the court is ultimately going to make the decision as to the appropriate course of action, it may be premature to act while the case is before the courts. The decision of the court may eventually validate or invalidate the University's decision. Mr. Blais agreed to table the motion at this time. He reiterated the importance of debating this issue at this level.

REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5.1 Update on University Library

Mr. Curran noted that the library has two buildings, the Webster and the Vanier. The budget of the library is \$10,000,000 and there is a staff of

175 positions (professional librarians, clerical, secretarial, & computer technicians). The collection is: 2,850,000 (monographs = 2,211,000/serials = 666,000/videos/films). He explained that a library is no longer valued by the books on its shelves but rather by the access to information it can provide. The curriculum drives the collection. Through a power-point presentation, Mr. Curran outlined the critical issues and obstacles the university libraries are facing. He also dispelled the myth that everything on the web is free! He elaborated on the following issues: access, e-journals, collections, housing, information literacy I-books, 24-hour & extended hours and Library code of conduct. He felt strongly that the Library, despite its complexities and its rules and regulations, offers hope and promise of learning to all.

Dr. Boisvert thanked Mr. Curran for a most informative and interesting presentation.

Dr. Boisvert reminded Council that written reports from the Student Services Directors will be tabled at the November CCSL meeting. He asked that the Directors send their reports to the secretary so that they can be circulated before the meeting.

6. STUDENT LIFE ISSUES

Ms Drew reminded Council that Health Services was providing the meningitis vaccine free of charge to all students whose birthdate was the year 1980 or upwards.

Mr. Al-Hadad said the clocks in the Hall Building and the LB Building are reporting the wrong time. Dr. Boisvert said this has been an on-going problem. He asked that Ms Boujaklian from Facilities Management, who was not present, be advised of the problem so that she can report back to Council at the November meeting.

Mr. Côté reminded Council that the deadline for applying for an Incourse Bursary is November 16th. He explained that the bursary is awarded on both a financial need basis and a satisfactory academic record.

7. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE RECREATION & ATHLETICS BOARD

As the next meeting of the Board was November 19th, Mr. Côté had nothing to report at this time. He confirmed that the Board now had student representation.

Mr. Zarins confirmed things are moving along with respect to the new Athletic Facility and he felt confident the end result would be extremely positive.

8. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

9. NEXT MEETING: November 30, 2001 10:00am Loyola Campus

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10. TERMINATION OF MEETING

A motion to terminate the meeting was made by Mr. Blais and seconded by Mr. Zarins.

The Motion was carried unanimously